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NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Annapolis Valley Regional Library (AVRL)

Ebookbuddies

Ebookbuddies is an organization which uses the Internet to deliver copyrighted children's books, preschool - Grade 3, which can be downloaded and read on a home computer. AVRL has partnered with this organization for a three month pilot project in Windsor, Kentville and Berwick Libraries during February to April. The website address, password and take-home instructions are available for patrons at each of the participating libraries.

Health Literacy Workshops

AVRL staff were invited to attend an Introduction to Health Literacy Workshop delivered by Michelle Helliwell, Knowledge Services Librarian with the District Health Authority. This was a three hour presentation primarily directed at staff in health care settings. Nine branch staff attended.

Teleconference Series

Six AVRL library staff attended the recent in the Soaring To Excellence teleconference series at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. Dealing With Difficult People provided some practical advice on how to cope with impatient and frustrated patrons who expect results immediately.

Storyboxes

Partly as a result of attending the Program Sharing session held in Truro, staff member Marilyn Curry has developed two types of storyboxes. A storybox is a themed kit that can be signed out along with a book, or books, on a related topic. It consists of a plastic box in which there are craft ideas, activities and supplies to match the book theme. The patron brings the box back empty and staff replenishes it for the next patron. There are currently eight boxes, four of each theme available at the Wolfville Library. The cost was approximately $58 for the initial setup, but will be reduced to only $1 to replenish each one. The storybox program will be evaluated and may be offered in other library branches.

Cape Breton Regional Library (CBRL)

Staff members at the McConnell Library attended an in-house presentation by Ann McCormick, RN and Clinical Nurse Educator with the Cape Breton Cancer Centre, on a computerized cancer education program that is being piloted in a number of hospitals across Canada. The program is the Oncology Interactive Education Series (OIES) and it was created to provide a comprehensive and accessible database of information and answers to the various stages that occur for a patient with cancer. The Cape Breton Cancer Centre hopes to spread public awareness that this computer program is available to patients and families who are coping with cancer. Ms. McCormick will return to the Library to present the program to the public.

In March, the McConnell Library offered a new program for babies up to 18 months called Babies & Books. The Library had previously offered the popular program Beginning with Books for expecting parents and new parents. Beginning with Books was a one evening session held a few times throughout the year. The program had positive results; parents felt more comfortable singing and reading to their babies, but many parents were looking for a regular program for themselves and their new babies. Babies & Books will be similar to Toddler Time and is scheduled for four weeks in March. Bev McGee, a Library Assistant at the McConnell Library, will be leading Babies & Books.

The Winter/Spring Adult Program sessions are underway at the McConnell Library. The first program was a success with a full to capacity audience for a presentation and slide show on the early history of Sydney. This information session was presented by well known author, historian and former president of the Old Sydney Society Dr. Robert Morgan.

Dr. Robert Morgan presents an information session on the early history of Sydney.

This series of 18 sessions will run until mid-May. A few of the programs include: Celebrate African Heritage Month; Financial and Estate Planning; Safe Driving for Seniors; Meditation; Gardening and an author reading with Rennie MacKenzie. A complete list of program details and times can be found

www.cbrl.ca.

The St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program is expanding at CBRL. This innovative reading program has been delighting young readers at the Wilfred Oram Memorial Library in North Sydney over the past six months. Because of it's popularity it was expanded for a trial period at the McConnell Library starting March 19. Dog Days at the McConnell Library will be held at various times throughout the day on Saturdays. The McConnell Library's Saturday story times will remain the same and the READ sessions will happen before and after the story times. The program will allow any interested child (grade 3-6) to have a read aloud story session with a READ dog and the dog's handler.

According to Jane Seivenpiper, volunteer coordinator for the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program "learning while having fun is what makes the program successful. When people of all ages participate in therapy with animals, they stop thinking about what they can't do and focus on being with the dog. They are accomplishing really hard goals without realizing how hard they are working, because their fear of failure and limitations dissolve in the process." This program is sponsored as a free community service by St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program Cape Breton Division.

During March Break the McConnell Library offered afternoon activities to entertain school aged children. The line up of events included: a Magic Show with magician Jenny Locke; Theatre Games with Brian Gallivan and a few of his drama students; Goofin' around at the Library with library staff; and Fiddling Fun with fiddler/ stepdancer Helen MacDonald. The afternoons were filled with good times and laughter!

Fiddler/stepdancer Helen MacDonald demonstrates the jig step to a group of children during one of the March Break programs.

Colchester-East Hants Regional Library (CEHRL)

RBC Makes Donation

Brian Matthews, Manager of RBC Royal Bank Truro Branch, recently presented a cheque to Edith Patterson, Chair of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library Foundation. The donation will help provide a collection security system for the Truro Branch Library.

Left to right: Edith Patterson, Chair of CEHRL Foundation, and RBC Royal Bank Truro Branch Manager Brian Matthews.

Lunch and a Movie

One way to beat the winter blahs is to visit with old friends and meet new ones in a comfortable setting. Once a month, on a day when the library is officially closed to the public, seniors have been bringing their lunch and enjoying a movie and social time at Truro Branch Library. After the movie, they are invited to visit the reading room to chat and borrow from the collection.

Attendees at CEHRL's Lunch and a Movie.

Getting into Shape

New, larger quarters for the Elmsdale Branch are taking shape! Recently, staff donned hard hats and visited the East Hants Resource Centre, scheduled to be completed in June. The multi-service complex will include health services, a job search centre, community economic development services and of course, the library!

Members of the CEHRL Board and staff gather to get their first look at the new space.

Rosalind Morrison, Elmsdale Branch Assistant, gets her first glimpse of the new space.

The new cupola was hoisted into place as a nice finishing touch to the roof of the East Hants Resource Centre.

Cumberland Regional Library (CURL)

Cumberland recently received a grant from the Canadian Volunteer Initiative (CVI) to conduct a capital fundraising workshop for the Friends of the Pugwash Library.

The CURL headquarters domain and network data storage server will be configured for new workgroup collaboration tools and offer an internal staff calendar. This will enable CURL's administrative staff to work more closely and efficiently with one another.

Eastern Counties Regional Library (ECRL)

ECRL's annual Share a Book-Build a Community fundraising campaign significantly surpassed its $10,000 goal by raising approximately $16,500. Lead sponsor EnCana Corporation donated a base amount of $3,000 with an additional amount of $5,000 given to match community donations. The campaign received an unexpected donation of $5,000 from the East Coast Credit Union as the campaign wound to a close. All funds from the campaign go towards the purchase of additional library materials for the collection. Radio sponsor 101.5 the Hawk was again the lead media sponsor for the campaign.

Bernadette Campbell, East Coast Credit Union Company Chair, (centre), presents ECRL Board Chair Joe Walsh, with a cheque for $5,000 at the Mulgrave Headquarters on Thursday, February 10. Shown on the left is ECCU Board member Don Pottie.

ECRL is using an innovative advertising method to promote library awareness in Port Hawkesbury through the purchase of advertising space (at a special non-profit rate) on the boards at the arena, housed in the newly constructed Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre. The Library has also adopted the @ *your library* slogan to use in its future promotions.

ECRL's arena sign.

On a Monday morning in January, an RCMP Cruiser driven by Cst. Lori Thorne of the Sherbrooke Detachment, arrived in the parking lot of St. Mary's Education Centre with lights flashing and siren wailing. The RCMP were not there to make an arrest, or to answer a complaint, but were taking part in Operation Read 'N' Ride, a part of the RCMP Adopt-A-Library Reading Club at the Sherbrooke Branch Library. RCMP Cst. Thorne provided the ride to school for Josie Jordan and Devon Keizer as the grand prize for the Library's fall reading club. The prize was won by Janey Jordan who presented it to her sister as a special gift. Another Read 'n Ride campaign got underway and the second draw was to be made in March.

RCMP Cst. Thorne is flanked by Devon Keizer, left, and Josie Jordan.

For the second year running, Headquarters and Mulgrave staff at ECRL have worn red on Valentine's Day to support the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Canso staff are thrilled to announce the formation of the Canso Red Hat Society. The Red Hat Society is a fun organization which was started in 1998 by Sue Ellen Cooper of California. The Society is open to women over 50 and who dare to wear red hats with purple clothing.

Left to right: Founding members of the Canso Library Red Hat Society and ECRL staff members June Jarvis and Sandra Dixon pose in their finery!

Halifax Public Libraries (HPL)

Thanking Library Volunteers!

Volunteer Week is April 17-23, 2005. HPL has more than 280 volunteers who have given 26,825 hours to support these programs and services much of which without this support would not be possible. These program and services include:

- Adult Literacy programs

- Reading Support Programs

- English as a Second Language (ESL) programs

- Service to the Homebound

- Books by Mail

Pictou-Antigonish Regional Library (PARL)

PARL's Writer In Residence, Sheldon Currie, delivered a three-part creative writing workshop in fiction for students of the New Glasgow Junior High School Enrichment Program in February. Over the course of three weeks, the 22 grade seven, eight and nine students visited the New Glasgow Library Program Room and listened attentively as Currie talked about the basics of writing fiction. As in any good writing workshop, the participants were given a writing assignment based on what they had learned, which they all completed. As a result of the impressive interaction demonstrated by the students, PARL will conduct a focus session with them in the near future to determine how teens can be better served by the area's libraries.

Sheldon Currie and some students of the New Glasgow Junior High School Enrichment Program discuss their writing assignment.

Programming at the New Glasgow Library hit a weekly high in attendance for the period of January 24 to January 29. During this six day period, PARL had 185 patrons take part in a variety of interesting programs. Topics included a meeting with the new garden club, the always well-attended travelogue subject with the Naturalists Club, creative writing and one-on-one sessions with Sheldon Currie, an interior design program, the monthly Senior's Café and two Storytime sessions for children.

On Tuesday, March 22 at 2:00 p.m., the new Westville Library and Innovation Centre opened its doors to the public for the first time. Residents of Westville were invited to drop by for refreshments and view the site, located on Queen Street in the former Victoria Street School. This building will follow the example set with the opening of the River John Library and Innovation Centre, which sees the development of the facility jointly directed by PARL, the Town of Westville and the Westville CAP Committee. The renovated building will offer increased floor space for more comfortable use of all library and Community Access Program services. Unique to this site is a community program room shared by the Westville Town Council. Also new to this situation, was a public request for monetary donations to assist with the expansion. Names of contributors will be permanently displayed on a wall of library friends donor board in the foyer. An official opening of the new facility will take place sometime in the future.

Truro magician David Anderson, a.k.a. Mr. J, performed to a full house in the New

Glasgow Library Program Room over March Break. Johnston delivered a polished performance of tricks and skits, keeping the children entertained for over sixty minutes.

War resister Darrell Anderson visited the New Glasgow Library Program in early March to give an emotional account of his short, but intense career as an American soldier on the streets of Baghdad. Sponsored by the Halifax Peace Coalition, Anderson took part in a media tour of the Maritimes in early March in which he gave his reasons for not returning to Iraq for his second tour of duty. He is now seeking refugee status in Canada.

Proving how difficult it can be predicting how many people will attend a program, Donna Bullerwells's information session on belly dancing basics and benefits drew an enthusiast crown of over 40 participants to a recent Monday night program at the New Glasgow Library.

Creator of the *Thieves and Kings* graphic novel series, Mark Oakley, puts a finishing touch on a pair of his characters during a cartoon drawing workshop at the New Glasgow Library Program Room. Oakley delivered two sessions and was mobbed by young fans during a meet and greet in the New Glasgow Library.

South Shore Regional Library (SSRL)

A Healthy Curiosity - Staff Workshop

The SSRL staff met on Valentine's Day for their regular staff in-service. The topic, a Healthy Curiosity, featured talks on the importance of Health Literacy and tips on how to offer the best service at the Library's reference desks. Michelle Helliwell, a librarian with the Western NS District Health Authority, spoke about Health Literacy, or the degree to which individuals are able to access, understand and effectively use health information and services. Halifax Public Libraries' David Hansen's presentation was On the Front Lines at the Reference Desk, which offered insight and advice on how to really help people who are looking for information. David shared many of his experiences at a city library, including techniques for dealing with

awkward situations and difficult patrons, while maintaining respect for all users and staff.

Left to right: Library guest Ruth Reedman discusses the Health Literacy presentation with speaker Michelle Helliwell.

Freedom To Read Week

Freedom To Read Week was celebrated by SSRL with a display of banned and challenged books at each library. As a twist, library staff wrapped the books in plain brown paper to symbolize censorship. The books have all been banned or challenged over the years for a variety of reasons. Perhaps the book will offend the borrower, perhaps not. The point is that one person should not have the power to choose for another. Library staff encouraged people to choose a book from the display sight unseen; like a surprise package. The challenge was to borrow it, take it home and decide for yourself if you wish to read it.

SSRL Library Driver/Clerk Krista Orchard poses next to a display of banned and challenged Books on Mobile Library 2. Orchard reported that the books went very quickly and that almost everyone who came through the door asked about the display.

Passion Series

The Library's Passion series in Lunenburg and Liverpool are going well. Internationally renowned artist Roger Savage was the guest speaker in January at the Thomas H. Raddall Library in Liverpool. Savage, best known for his watercolours, prefers to paint outside, finding it hard to duplicate the feeling and the light inside his studio. Roger Savage's work has been exhibited all over the world including Sweden, the U.S.A., Colombia, Germany, Switzerland and the U.K. Roger spoke about his passion for light and during the presentation painted a watercolour which he then donated to the Library as a prize for the Friends of the Library to raffle.

In February, author Tom Sheppard spoke about his passion for local history. Tom is Past Chair of the Library Board, a columnist for *The Advance* and a retired educator as well as the author of two books, *Historic Wolfville, Grand Pré and Countryside* and *Historic Queens County*. Tom spoke about the buildings, events and people that have shaped the history of Queens County.

The Lunenburg series is also a hit, although the topics are very different. Letters, diaries and journals are the passion of local writer and former reporter Jennifer James who visited the Lunenburg Library in January to discuss her passion for capturing thoughts in written form for posterity. James helped those attending learn to put thoughts into words on the page, whether the topic is a letter to the editor, or preserving community heritage by creating a diary of daily events as they unfold.

Frances Anderson, Research Associate for the N. S. Museum of Natural History (and former SSRL employee!), discussed her passion for lichens common to the area in an entertaining and easy to understand presentation at the Lunenburg Library in February. Frances brought a stunning display of photos of Nova Scotian lichens. Lichens, plant organisms composed of fungus and alga that form as crusts on rocks and tree trunks, are sometimes hard to identify. Future topics include gardening and social change.

Western Counties Regional Library (WCRL)

Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day was celebrated throughout WCRL around the special day of romance and friendship through stories, cookie decorating and crafts.

Valentine's Day fun at the Clare Branch of WCRL.

Stormy Days!

"Through wind and rain and snow ..." WCRL withstood the series of snowstorms that blanketed the region in late January. Despite three storms in one week, the library branches remained open, at times with reduced hours, with the exception of Monday, Jan. 24. The Monday storm shut down all 10 branches, dumping 64 centimetres of snow on the region. Only Yarmouth and Westport Branches are usually open at this time of year on Mondays, so the impact was minimal.

Database Refresher for WCRL Staff

A region-wide in-service for the staff of WCRL brought a refreshing look at databases. On Monday, Feb. 28, Stacey Knibloe from Gale discussed the databases used by the staff at WCRL and reviewed search techniques and features of each. In the afternoon, Chuck Hubbard of the Nova Scotia Provincial Library gave a presentation on the Web 2 Catalogue from a patron's perspective.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES, DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

The School of Library & Information Studies (SLIS) Associated Alumni invites nominations for the 2005 Outstanding Alumni Award. This award honours a member of the Associated Alumni who has made an outstanding contribution to Library and Information Studies. Full details for eligibility and criteria for nominations are available at: **http://www.mgmt.dal.ca/slis/PeopleGroups/alumni/OAA_Guidelines_04.pdf**

Nominations may be submitted by mail, e-mail or fax, no later than May 31, 2005 to:
Selection Committee
Outstanding Alumni Award
C/O School of Library and Information Studies
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS., B3H 3J5
Fax: (902) 494-2451
E-mail: **slis@dal.ca**

Dr. Norman Horrocks discussed *Overt and Covert - Libraries and Intelligence Work* as part of the SLIS Brown Bag Lunch Series on March 9, 2005. Dr Norman Horrocks, Emeritus Professor, School of Library and Information Studies, Dalhousie University, is an Editorial Consultant for Scarecrow Press,

Lanham, MD, and a Contributing Editor for Library Journal, New York. From 1945-48 he served in the British Army's Intelligence Corps in the United Kingdom and the Middle East providing material for the code-breakers at Bletchley Park and its successors. A Life Member of the Intelligence Corps Association, his chapter on *Spies of the Airwaves* is scheduled to be published by Information Today Inc. in the summer of 2005 as one of a collection of essays connecting intelligence service with librarians and information scientists.

As part of its Public Lecture Series, SLIS hosted *The Future of LIS Education*, at the Great Hall, University Club, Dalhousie University, on March 17, 2005. Speakers Toni Carbo and Brian Cantwell Smith discussed the current and future needs of LIS education. This lecture was co-sponsored by:

- CLA Student Chapter, School of Library and Information Studies

- Dalhousie University Libraries

- Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University

- Department of Irish Studies, Saint Mary's University

NOVA SCOTIA PROVINCIAL LIBRARY NEWS

Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian Retires

Provincial Librarian Elizabeth Armstrong retired at the end of March after more than 25 years at the Nova Scotia Provincial Library. She was appointed Provincial Librarian in March 2002, after having been acting in the position since 1999. Betsy joined the Provincial Library as Supervisor of Public Libraries, becoming involved in all aspects of the Provincial Library's mandate in various positions over the years. Her career spanned a period of great change in libraries and library service. She recognized early the key role of technology in bringing quality library service to all Nova Scotians and was instrumental in the implementation of automated library systems in the regional public libraries across the province. As a strong advocate for public access computers and technology training in libraries, she was actively involved in the Gates Foundation Library Initiative. Betsy supported development of virtual library services in Nova Scotia. She was instrumental in the development of public library standards for the province and participated on four Regional Public Library Funding Review Committees, chairing the most recent. Her interest in library science education and training was reflected in her term on the Nova Scotia Community College Library Program Advisory Committee. As Provincial Librarian, her work reflected a variety of changes in the library scene, including the greater role of libraries in the community, the increased importance of partnerships and the impact of Industry Canada's Community Access Program. Throughout her career, Betsy has enjoyed the respect of her staff at Kempt Road, of her colleagues in the Department of Education and of the greater library community. She brought an honesty, commonsense and fairness to her professional and personal dealings, which will be remembered. We all wish her a long and happy retirement.

Nova Scotia's retiring Provincial Librarian Elizabeth Armstrong.

Library Marketing: Tips & Techniques Teleconference

A College of DuPage teleconference on Library Marketing: Tips & Techniques was hosted by the Provincial Library on February 18. Staff from special libraries, university libraries, school libraries and public libraries attended to hear about innovative techniques that librarians are using to promote their libraries and services. Following the broadcast Michelle Helliwell, Program Coordinator of the Canadian Association of Special Libraries and Information Services, Atlantic Chapter, which cosponsored the event, introduced Trudy Amirault, Director of Western Counties Regional Library and president of NSLA. Trudy gave an enthusiastic talk accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation on the @ your library brand. In 2004 NSLA became a participant in this trademark campaign. Trudy spoke about how the @ your library brand can be used to promote libraries along with examples of how libraries in Nova Scotia and other places have successfully used it. More information on the @ your library brand can be found on NSLA's web site at **http://nsla.ns.ca/atyourlibrary.html**. A video of the teleconference can be borrowed through interlibrary loan from the Provincial Library's professional collection. To search the collection, click on the NS Provincial Library link on the NcompasS page, at **http://ncompass.library.ns.ca/**

March Teleconferences

In March two more College of DuPage satellite teleconferences were hosted at the Provincial Library. On March 11 library staff from health sciences libraries, public libraries, university libraries and others gathered for a teleconference in the Soaring to Excellence 2005 series on *Reference Tools for the Information Age: Consumer Medical Resources*. A panel of three librarian experts in the area of health sciences information discussed the reference interview from a health information perspective, the best consumer medical reference tools available, both in print and online and other issues related to providing consumer medical information. Following the broadcast portion of the program, Joyline Makani, Management and Economics Librarian at the Killam Library, Dalhousie University, gave a dynamic presentation on the background concerning the development of the NOVANET live chat help service which began in the fall of 2004. Although this was not specifically related to health information, those present were very interested to hear about this new local development in reference service.

On March 18 a broadcast of a College of Dupage satellite teleconference on *Library as Place: Where People Want to Be* was hosted at the Provincial Library. A panel of three library directors representing academic and public libraries presented information on how they are transforming their library buildings to make them attractive spaces which are relevant to the needs of their communities and campuses. Following the broadcast Sarah Wenning, Branch Manager of the Keshen Goodman Public Library gave a very interesting presentation on the role that this new Halifax Public

Libraries Branch is playing in the growing community which it is part of. You can read more about this in the article *Halifax Public Libraries' Keshen Goodman Public Library* by Sarah Wenning., *Feliciter*, Vol. 50, No. 6, December, 2004, p.255-57.

HOT TIPS AND UPDATES

NSLA / LBANS CONFERENCE

Mark your calendars for September 30 - October 2, 2005, the date of the 2005 NSLA/LBANS Conference. CURL will host the conference, which will be held this year in Amherst. Everything points to a great time. Stephen Abram, President of CLA and Vice President, Innovation of SIRSI Corporation, will be the keynote speaker and there will be sessions of interest for everyone. Stephen has been listed by Library Journal as one of the top 50 people influencing the future of libraries and librarianship. Some of the workshops planned include: weblogs, author readings, poster and graphic design session, advocacy, storytelling, assistive technology for the disabled, project management, public speaking, satellite sites and more! A special presentation not to be missed will be the Dewey Divas and Dudes who will recommend great new books for kids and adults.

CELEBRATING EARLY LITERACY BOOST FOR LIBRARIES

On Family Literacy Day, January 27, four library systems received a boost to their books and baby programming. The Read to Me! Nova Scotia Family Literacy Program celebrated a generous grant from the IWK Health Centre Foundation External Grants Committee and the Halifax Youth Foundation with an event at the IWK Health Centre. The grant will provide funds to the Pictou Antigonish, Colchester-East Hants, Annapolis Valley and Cumberland Regional Library Systems as well as regional support for the Read to Me! Program. Through the grant, these library systems will be able to increase their newborn book collections, develop and increase books for baby programming and offer staff training. The libraries are key partners with the Read to Me! Program and since its beginning in 2001, several library systems have received grants from the IWK External Grants Committee.

Frances Newman, Chief Librarian Cumberland Regional Library spoke on behalf of the Library. "The baby story times at libraries serve as a primer for parents so that they can remember the rhymes and songs of their youth as well as learning some new ones. We take for granted that all people remember these rhymes and sing them to their baby, but this is not always the case. If a parent never learned the song, then they will not be able to teach it to their own child. This partnership with the library enables the program to go one step further and reach those that need it most," stated Newman.

The Read to Me! Program recognized early that the library is an integral link in maintaining a continuum of literacy support for families with children between birth and school age. Through books for babies programming, families see positive modelling of book sharing techniques, learn to select quality age appropriate books and have fun with reading.

All parents of babies born in Nova Scotia now receive the bright yellow bag filled with books and literacy resources from the Read to Me! Nova Scotia Family Literacy Program. The bag, which is delivered at eleven hospitals around the province, gives families the tools to start reading and enjoying books with their baby right from birth. The bag also contains an invitation for parents to sign up for their child's first library card.

Mother and educator Nicola Disney who regularly attends her local library program with Ben, her one year old son, also spoke at the event: "We rarely miss a class and at seven months, my son began to squeal with delight whenever we entered the library. Really, what more can I say? I think that seeing your baby so happy about something is perhaps the best compliment I can extend - I am so very grateful".

Left to right: Hugh Smith, Barbara Hawley, Shauna MacDonnell, Carol McDougall, Nicola and Ben Disney, Frances Newman and Annette Marshall.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY EVENTS

AVRL

In celebration of Family Literacy Day the 2nd annual Family Sleepover was held at the Wolfville Memorial Library on January 28. Doors opened early allowing some of the 27 participants to vie for prime sleeping areas – a favourite spot is the cozy picture book area in the children's section. Greco supplied three party pizzas, and a $100 donation from Honda covered juice, coffee, muffins, etc. for breakfast. Guests were kept very busy with various activities which included special musical guest Al Wilkie from the Lustre Brothers, and one of the *storytelling grandmothers* involved in the local literacy group.

Also in conjunction with Family Literacy Day, the Kentville Library staff offered Locked In At The Library on January 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. Seven families participated in games, crafts, reading and other activities. Supper was included and the local *storytelling grandmothers* were special guests.

CBRL

On Sunday, January 30 the McConnell Library celebrated Family Literacy Day. This was the fourth annual Family Literacy Day event and it was organized by the Family Place Resource Centre, the Cape Breton Literacy Network and CBRL. Approximately 75 people attended the afternoon celebration. Special guests included, Deputy Mayor and library board member, Clair Detheridge; Fire Services mascot, Sparky; fireman, George Muise; Donalda Wescott and George Howie from the Cape Breton Literacy Network and Family Place's Blair Hill. Local businesses supported the event by donating prizes for a draw. It was an enjoyable afternoon where stories, activities and cake were shared by all in attendance.

Fire Services mascot Sparky talks to children on Family Literacy Day.

CURL

Special events were held throughout Cumberland County libraries to celebrate Family Literacy Day on Januuary 27. A poster contest gave children the opportunity to depict what family literacy means to them, and family literacy bingo cards were distributed to all branches along with crossword puzzles and other free handouts. Family fun nights were organized as well as celebrity storytimes, open houses and displays.

CURL's Family Literacy Day display board.

HPL

With over 2.5 million visitors in the past year, HPL had a lot to celebrate on Family Literacy Day. Created by ABC CANADA Foundation in 1999, and held on January 27 each year, the day promotes the importance of reading and learning as a family.

"For the Halifax Public Libraries, Family Literacy Day is an opportunity to celebrate what we do all year round, which is offering innovative and exciting programs that celebrate reading, listening, learning, participating and interacting," states Tracey Jones, Literacy, ESL and Diversity Manager.

WCRL

All 10 branches of WCRL celebrated Family Literacy Day on Jan. 27 with a Munsch-a-thon. The work of children's author Robert Munsch was read at all the branches during the simultaneous programming. The event caught the attention of ABC Canada, the literacy foundation supporting the development of a fully literate Canadian population. ABC Canada awarded WCRL for its initiative with a signed CD of the works of Robert Munsch. The CD became a draw prize for participants in the regional program. Dominique Cormier of Yarmouth was the winner.

Family Literacy Day was celebrated by sharing stories by Robert Munsch including the favourite *Mmmm Cookies!* at the Clare Branch of WCRL.

NOVA SCOTIA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION FULL MEMBER OF THE EDUCATION INSTITUTE AND THE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership was formed by the library associations of Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan to provide continuing education opportunities for its members (this became the Education Institute) and to join the associations' retail arms into one library Store.

Full membership in The Partnership means that NSLA members can now :

a - Register for the excellent audio and teleconferences put on by the Education Institute at the member's rate.

b - Receive the catalogue and notices of Education Institute offerings in the mail.

c - Be able to have the library Store at the NSLA conference, providing an opportunity for NSLA members to buy library-related merchandise and books

d - NSLA will have a new revenue stream. For every registration from our province for EI courses and every item sold from the Store at our conference we will receive a portion of the net revenue.

Another great reason to be a member of the NSLA.

ATLANTIC WRITING AWARDS

The Atlantic Writing Awards will be held this year on Friday, April 29 at 4pm in the Alderney Landing Theatre. The Awards encompass the Ann Connor Brimer Children's Literature Prize, Atlantic Poetry Prize, Best Atlantic Published Book, Booksellers' Choice Award, Dartmouth Book Awards, Evelyn

Richardson Prize for Non-fiction, Margaret and John Savage First Book Award, and the Thomas Head Raddall Atlantic Fiction Prize.

Atlantic literary stars come out every year at this event which celebrates the best in Atlantic writing. Winners of each Atlantic Writing Award will be announced during this gala event. For more information about writers of Nova Scotia, visit the Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia website at **www.writers.ns.ca**.

HACKMATACK 2005/2006 SHORT LISTED BOOKS

HACKMATACK ENGLISH NON-FICTION SHORTLIST 2005-2006
Picasso: Soul on Fire by Laura Fernandez
Tundra Books, 2004
0887765998 $22.99 (hc)

A Poppy is to Remember by Heather Patterson
Scholastic Canada 2004
0439967864 $19.99 (hc)

Singing Towards the Future: The Story of Portia White
by Lian Goodall
Napoleon Publishing 2004
1894917081 $18.95 (hc)

Fantastic Feats and Failures by Editors of *YES Magazine*
Kids Can Press 2004
155337634X $9.95 (pb)

Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth
by Rochelle Strauss
Kids Can Press 2004
1553376692 $19.95 (hc)

Adventures in the Ice Age by Linda Bailey
Kids Can Press 2004
1553375041 $8.95 (pb)

Aha! The Most Interesting Book You'll Ever Read About Intelligence
by Trudee Romanek
Kids Can Press 2004
1553375696 $7.95 (pb)

The Kids Book of Canadian Exploration by Ann-Maureen Owens & Jane Yealland

Kids Can Press 2004
1553373537 $19.95 (hc)

The Kids Guide to Money Cent$ by Keltie Thomas
Kids Can Press 2004
155337391X $8.95 (pb)

Marie Curie: A Brilliant Life by Elizabeth MacLeod
Kids Can Press 2004
155337571X $7.95 (pb)

HACKMATACK FICTION SHORT LIST 2005/2006

* indicates Atlantic Canadian author, illustrator and/or publisher

The Adventures of Tommy Smith by Robert Sutherland
HarperCollins, 2004
ISBN 000639244X
pb $7.99

Dive Trilogy by Gordon Korman
Scholastic Canada, 2003
Book One: The Discovery - ISBN 0439507227
Book Two: The Deep - ISBN 0439507235
Book Three: The Danger - ISBN 0439507243
pb $6.99 each, total $20.97

Ellen Fremedon by Joan Givner
Groundwood, 2004
ISBN 0888996403
pb $8.95

Hero by Martha Attema
Orca, 2003
ISBN 155143251X
pb $7.95

* *Just for Kicks (Sports Stories)* by Robert Rayner
James Lorimer, 2004
ISBN 1550288245
pb $8.95

No Small Thing by Natale Ghent
HarperCollins, 2004
ISBN 0006392784
pb $7.99

* *Pomiuk: Prince of the North* by Alice Walsh
Beach Holme, 2004
ISBN 0888784473
pb $9.95

* *The Puppet Wrangler* by Vicki Grant
Orca, 2004
ISBN 1551433044
pb $8.95

Rachel: Book Four: An Elephant Tree Christmas (Our Canadian Girl) by Lynne Kositsky
Penguin Canada, 2004
ISBN 0143016717
pb $8.99

* *There You Are* by Joanne Taylor
Tundra, 2004
ISBN 0887766587
pb $12.99

NOMINATIONS HACKMATACK 2005-2006 SÉLECTION FRANÇAISE

TITRE: *Drôle de nuit pour Miti*
AUTEUR: BERNADETTE RENAUD
ÉDITEUR: QUÉBEC-AMÉRIQUE
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2764403240
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Dernier voyage de Qumak (Le)*
AUTEUR: GENEVI VE MATIVAT
ÉDITEUR: PIERRE TISSEYRE
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2890519112
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Bateau dans la savane (Le)*
AUTEUR: JEAN-PIERRE DUBÉ
ÉDITEUR: PIERRE TISSEYRE
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2890519147
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Butte Pétard (La)*
AUTEUR: DIANE CARMEL LÉGER
ÉDITEUR: BOUTON D'OR ACADIE
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2922203700
PRIX $9.95

TITRE: *Pour un panier de p ches*
AUTEUR: JOSÉE OUIMET
ÉDITEUR: PIERRE TISSEYRE
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2890518922
PRIX $15.95

TITRE: *Disparition du bébé chocolat (La)*
AUTEUR: ANDREE POULIN
ÉDITEUR: QUÉBEC-AMÉRIQUE
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2764403704
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Atlas mystérieux(L')*
AUTEUR: DIANE BERGERON
ÉDITEUR: SOULI RES
ANNÉE 2004
ISBN 2922225925
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Hiver de Léo Polatouche (L')*
AUTEUR: NICOLE LEROUX
ÉDITEUR: BORÉAL
ANNÉE 2003
ISBN 2764602790
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Dans le nid du faucon*
AUTEUR: MARIE ROBERGE
ÉDITEUR: SOLEIL DE MINUIT
ANNÉE 2004ISBN 2922691349
PRIX $8.95

TITRE: *Chasse aux moules (La)*
AUTEUR: MARYSE PELLETIER
ÉDITEUR: COURTE ECHELLE
ANNÉE 2003
ISBN 2890216837
PRIX $9.95

LINKed

The March and April column features some web sites which are about children's books and the development of reading and writing skills in children, as well as being fun and entertaining sites for children to explore.

Kidsreads.com at **http://www.kidsreads.com/** is part of The Book Report Network, and like the other sites in the network it has book reviews, special features, author profiles and word games. The Features section has many booklists on all kinds of interesting themes. In the Series section you will find popular children's series with summaries of what the series is about, age level, a list of titles in the series as well as games, trivia and links to author web sites. In the Authors section you can browse alphabetically to get author profiles and in the Reviews section book reviews are listed alphabetically by title. The Games section has a lot of activity pages based on children's books which can be printed out and the Trivia section has quizzes based on books.

Owl Kids Online at **http://www.owlkids.com/** is the home of three popular Canadian children's magazines - Chirp, for children 3-6 years old, chickaDEE, for 6-9 year olds and OWL ,for ages 9 to 13. There are colouring pages to print out, crossword puzzles and other word games as well as brainteasers and jokes. In OWL's Hot Topics section children can read about topics such as tsunamis and how children live in other parts of the world. chickaDEE has interesting facts about life in Canada in the Did You Know? section.

Berenstain Bear Country at **http://www.berenstainbears.com/** is a great activity site for young children who like the Berenstain Bears books. Click on the schoolhouse door for *Fun & Educational Things To Do*. There are activities such as *Dress Up The Berenstain Bears* where there are cutouts that can be printed out and many other activities such as colouring, games, puzzles and an interactive story book. Kids can view three videos in the The Bear Country Barn Theater.

At *Seussville.com* **http://www.seussville.com/** the Playground section has lots of games as well as a large number of colouring and activity pages which can be printed out. Kids can also create their own story by clicking on the Seuseville StoryMaker and following the directions.

The World of Peter Rabbit at **http://www.peterrabbit.com/** has a Fun section with activities and colouring pages to print out. The Storytime section has five Beatrix Potter books to read. This site is also available in a selection of other languages including French.

Kids on the Net at **http://kotn.ntu.ac.uk/** is a site for kids who would like to write and it has resources to help them write as well as games and activities for improving literacy skills. Kids can submit stories, poems, articles and reports and join in on writing projects on the site. *Kids on the Net* is run by the trAce Online Writing Centre based at Nottingham Trent University, UK and features writing by children all over the world.

The International Children's Digital Library, a project of the University of Maryland at **http://www.icdlbooks.org** currently has almost 600 full text children's books with beautiful illustrations which are available online. Many of these books are in languages other than English so this is a useful site for libraries with patrons who are looking for foreign language children's books. The main page has a search area where you can click on simple, advanced, location or keyword search. To find books in a particular language go to simple search and then click on the drop down menu to choose from the selection of languages. The site is very attractive and well designed with easily understood buttons to click on to access different types of books.

Web sites which were featured in previous *Linked* columns are arranged by subject category on the Reference Services page of the Provincial Library web site at **http://www.library.ns.ca/services/reference/index.htm**. If you have any suggestions about future topics for this column please contact Carol Morris at **morrisc@gov.ns**

PROFESSIONAL COLUMN

In this month's column, two recent additions to the professional collection are featured. These items can be borrowed through regular interlibrary loan channels. Please send interlibrary loan requests via e-mail to **inshpl@nshpl.library.ns.ca**.

Diether, John W. - *Working with stress [Kit]*. Washington, D.C.: National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 2002.
Description: 1 videodisc (17 min), 1 guide sheet, 1 book 26p)
Call # : Prof 155 .9 Wor

This DVD program is a presentation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (U.S.) And NIOSH - National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. It shows how job stress can pose a health threat to workers and the well-being of an organization. It provides information about ways to manage and overcome stressful work environments.

Mathews, Joseph R. - *The Bottom Line: determining and communicating the value of the special library*. Libraries Unlimited, 2002.
Call # : Prof 026 Mat

In this book, the author illustrates how to evaluate library services and successfully communicate the library's value to upper management. He provides different types of evaluations and a variety of measures. He also shows how a cost-benefit analysis and a library balanced scorecard, along with effective communication, can position the library as a *value center* rather than a *cost center*. Appendices at the back of this book include a glossary, input measures and sample surveys.

Credits go to:

Barbara Emodi, Editor NSLA Newsletter
Shanda LaRamee, Regional Coordinator, Read to Me! Family Literacy Program

The Disseminator is an electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library, 3770 Kempt Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3K 4X8. TEL (902) 424-2457; FAX (902) 424-0633

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